

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended):

A method comprising:

clearing a plurality of first connections in bulk between a first node and a second node of an ATM network from the first node; ~~and~~

for each said clearing, sending a first message from the first node to the second node, the first message comprising a single bulk release message from the first node to the second node containing an identification of the first connections, the identification comprising a list of connection identifiers allowing both of consecutive connection identifiers and non-consecutive connection ~~identifiers.~~ identifiers;

receiving the first message at the second node;

clearing the first connections from the second node in response to the received first message;

sending a single second message from the second node to the first node in response to the clearing of the first connections from the second node and receiving the first message identifying at least one of the connections cleared in response to the received first message, and the first message;

the first node maintaining a database of at least one of

a connections cleared and identified in the first message; and

both

a connections cleared and identified in the first message, and

a connections cleared and identified in the first message but not identified in the
second message; and

the first node receiving the second message sent from the second node to the first node.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 further including enabling an interpretation of the received first message wherein the clearing from the second node depends upon the enabling.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 wherein each clearing defined in claim 1 has an associated distinct identification, and further the database uses as a root for the connections cleared and identified in each first message the distinct associated identification.

6.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended):

A method of clearing a plural number of connections between a first node and a second node in an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network including:

sending at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message from the first node to the second node, wherein each first message comprises a list of connection identifiers allowing both of consecutive connection identifiers and non-consecutive connection identifiers, each first message including an identification of at least one of

each of a plural number of first connections to be cleared in bulk from the second node by the first message, and

each of a plural number of first connections that is one of cleared from the first node and to be cleared from the first ~~node~~ node;

for each said first message, clearing from the first node each said first connection;

the first node placing into a first database a first record that includes an identification of each first connection cleared from the first node, and into a second database a second record that includes an identification of each first connection cleared from the first node;

the second node receiving each first message;

the second node clearing each of the first connections identified in each received first message;

the second node sending a second message to the first node in response to each received first message that includes an identification of each connection that is one of cleared and to be cleared from the second node; and

the first node in response to receiving each second message, deleting from the second database the identification of each connection identified in the second message.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original):

The method defined in claim 9 wherein the first message is consistent with an Asynchronous Transfer Mode formatted message.

12. (Original):

The method defined in claim 9 further including enabling the first node to send the first message before the sending.

13. (Original):

The method defined in claim 9 wherein the sending is in response to a requirement for a clearing of a plural number of first node connections.

14. (Original):

The method defined in claim 9 wherein the sending is in response to an event that includes at least one of:

a received Physical interface reset command,

a received Virtual interface reset command,

a received Datalink Layer Service-Specific Connection-Oriented Protocol reset,

a received Global path ATM Forum defined RESTART message,

a received Virtual Path ATM Forum defined RESTART message,

a received plural number of RELEASE messages, and

a received Force Reroute in a Semi-Permanent Switched Virtual Circuit based network.

15. (Original):

The method defined in claim 9 wherein the first message includes at least an identification of each of the first connections to be cleared from the second node, and further including:

the second node receiving the first message, and

the second node clearing each of the connections in the second node identified as to be cleared from the second node in the first message in response to receiving the first message.

16. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 10~~ claim 9 further including the first node placing into a first database a record that includes an identification of each first connection cleared from the first node.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original):

The method defined in claim 15 further including enabling the second node to receive the first message before the receiving.

19. (Previously Presented):

The method defined in claim 15 further including sending at least one of

a connection message to the first node identifying the connections cleared by the second node in response to the second node receiving the first message, and

an identification message to the first node identifying the first message received by the second node.

20. (Original):

The method defined in claim 15 further including enabling the second node to send the first message before the sending.

21. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 17~~ claim 9 further including enabling the first node to receive the second message before the second node sending the second message.

22. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 17~~ claim 9 wherein an index in each said first record includes the identification of a first connection.

23. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 17~~ claim 9 wherein an index in each second record includes the identification of a first connection.

24. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 17~~ claim 9 wherein a root of the first database is an identification of the first message.

25. (Currently Amended):

The method defined in ~~claim 17~~ claim 9 wherein a root of the second database is an identification of the first message.

26. (Original):

The method defined in claim 19 further including enabling the first node to receive the second message before the sending of a second message to the first node.

27.-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended):

A computer-readable storage_medium having instructions_stored_therein, which when executed by a computer, cause said computer to perform operations comprising:

preparing at least one first message comprising a single bulk release message to be sent from a first node of an ATM network to a second node of an ATM network, each first message including an identification of a first connections to be cleared in bulk from the second node by the first message, the identification comprising a list of connection identifiers allowing both of consecutive connection identifiers and non-consecutive connection ~~identifiers~~ identifiers;

for each said first message, clearing from the first node each said first connection;

the first node placing into a first database a record that includes an identification of each first connection cleared from the first node, and into a second database a record that includes an identification of each first connection cleared from the first node;

the first node interpreting a third message received from the second node after the first message is prepared that includes an identification of at least one connection; and
the first node in response to interpreting each third message, deleting from the second database the identification of each of the connections identified in the third message.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended):

The computer-readable storage medium of ~~claim 45~~, claim 44, wherein the operations further include the first node placing into a first database a record that includes an identification of each of the first connections cleared from the first node.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented):

The computer-readable storage medium of claim 44, wherein the first message is consistent with an Asynchronous Transfer Mode formatted message.

49. (Previously Presented):

The computer-readable storage medium of claim 44, wherein the operations further include interpreting a second message consistent with an Asynchronous Transfer Mode formatted message received from an ATM network node wherein the second message includes an identification of each of a plural number of connections to be cleared from the first node.

50. (Previously Presented):

The computer-readable storage medium of claim 49, wherein the operations further include clearing each of the connections in the first node identified as to be cleared in the second message in response to interpreting the second message.

51. (Previously Presented):

The computer-readable storage medium of claim 49, wherein the operations further include preparing at least one of

a connection message to the ATM network node identifying the connections cleared by the first node in response to the first node interpreting the second message, and
an identification message to the ATM network node identifying the second message received by the first node.

52.-58. (Cancelled)